

School letterhead here

Screening form should be used to help identify cases of pertussis during an outbreak.

## Cough Illness Screening

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_:

To reduce the transmission of pertussis (whooping cough) among students or staff, school health personnel have been working to identify school attendees with persistent cough illness and refer them for evaluation by a health care provider.

This letter is to let you know that your child reported to the school nurse with a persistent cough and was screened for symptoms of pertussis. The results of that screening are included below.

Screening Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes	No	Cough Illness Identified by School Nurse
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough onset date: ___/___/___ # of days of cough: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough lasting at least 2 weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coughing in sudden bursts or fits Onset date: ___/___/___
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough is worse at night
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vomiting due to cough
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whoop
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporarily stop breathing after cough

School nurse: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name) (signature)

Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment recommends the following for students and staff identified as having a persistent cough illness:

1. If symptoms are still present, it is important that you or your child be evaluated ***promptly*** by your health care provider for possible pertussis infection.
2. If you or your child see's their health care provider, please **show them this letter.**
3. If your child is diagnosed with pertussis:
  - Please speak with your health care provider about getting antibiotics for yourself and exposed family members to prevent illness even if you do not have any pertussis symptoms. These antibiotics should be taken as soon as possible after exposure.
  - Please keep your child out of school and away from public places until they have completed 5 days of antibiotics.
4. Please make sure you and your family members are current on all your pertussis vaccinations

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### **Information about Pertussis:**

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is spread through the air by coughing. Pertussis usually begins with cold-like symptoms and a cough that worsens over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms may include coughing “fits” followed by a “whooping” noise, vomiting, cyanosis (turning blue) or the inability to catch one’s breath.

The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help eliminate the cough. Usually, people infected with pertussis do not have a fever. In older children and adults the symptoms may be only a persistent cough which is worse at night. This illness is often very severe in small infants.

Persons who are exposed to pertussis can lower their risk of becoming ill by taking antibiotics prescribed by their health care provider. Persons who are already ill after being exposed to someone with pertussis should take antibiotics to reduce the risk of spreading pertussis to others. Antibiotics taken early in the illness may help shorten the duration and severity of the illness.

### **Pertussis Vaccinations:**

Although adults and children who have had all or some of their immunizations (DTaP & Tdap) may still catch pertussis, **vaccination against pertussis is still one of the best ways to reduce the risk of getting this disease.** Clark County Public Health encourages parents to take this opportunity to ensure their families are up-to-date with vaccinations that protect against pertussis and other diseases.

If you have questions about pertussis or recommended childhood vaccinations, please call your health care provider or the Barnstable County Public Health Nurse at 508-375-6617.

Thank you,

School Nurse Signature block here